(c) whether some defects have also been located in the imported tank engines, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the foreign countries from whom the necessary help has been sought, when it is expected to reach India and time by when Arjun Tank shall be repaired fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main defects noticed during trials by Army were related to failure of piston rods of Hydro pneumatic Suspension Unit, Gunner Main Sight and Gun Control System. These defects were noticed during trials in 2005 and 2006. The cause of defects have been analysed and corrective action has been taken to eliminate the defect.

(c) Yes, Sir. Defect related to premature warning of Air filter of the engine fitted in MBT Arjun was noticed during the trial in 2005.

(d) The cause of the defect was analysed and rectified in consultation with the specialists from Germany, Belgium and France. The remedial measures have been implemented at the production stage.

Recruitment of officers and scientists

†1727. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the armed forces are facing difficulties in recruiting soldiers, officers, doctors and engineers and resulting several Defence Projects yet to be completed due to the shortage of scientists;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to meet this shortage;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in order to attract the scientists towards Defence Research and Development Organisation an assurance was given to them that they will be given promotional and other facilities; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not fulfilling this assurance and steps taken to attract officers and scientists towards the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There are less applicants from trained engineers for entry into Armed Forces leading to shortages. There are no major problems of recruitment in Armed Forces for medical category of personnel, Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR), in general and scientists for Defence Research and Development Organisation. The completion of projects are not seriously affected by the attritions giving rise to vacancies which takes sometime for fresh recruitments.

There has been a significant increase in the intake levels in the Armed Forces. Government has devised several schemes of giving incentives and improving the service conditions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) In order to attract scientists to join DRDO, they are advised to visit the websites of DRDO, and Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC) for detailed information related to promotion prospects, incentives, qualification improvement programmes, and other facilities given to scientists.

Increased allocation from NCCF to Orissa

1728. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has written to the Home Minister for increased allocation from the National Calamity Contingency Fund, for restoration and rehabilitation works after the last floods; and

(b) if so, the status thereof, indicating the time-frame within which the additional funds asked for would be sanctioned and provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa in its memorandum submitted to the government of India has sought additional financial assistance amounting to Rs. 306.70 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for relief operations in the wake of floods in 2007.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team, constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, has already visited the State for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirements of funds for relief operations by the State Government. The report of the Central Team has been received and is being processed in conformity with the laid down procedure. It is expected to complete this procedure shortly.

Cases of car jacking in Delhi

1729. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the carjackers have been striking on their own will in the capital city of Delhi; and

(b) if so, what security measures Government is providing for car owners and drivers to avoid the incident of the car jacking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The law and order situation in Delhi by and large remains under control. Several security measures have been taken by Delhi Police to avoid incidents of car jacking, such as formation of Anti-Auto Theft Squad in every District, setting up Check posts at all borders, keeping close watch by Division Officers/beat Constables on the activities of suspected persons, deployment of plain cloths Police personnel to collect Intelligence, intensification of Motorcycle patrolling, exchange of information with neighbouring States, compilation of data regarding car jackers operating in Delhi with their description, directing PCR Vans to keep sharp vigil while performing their duties, etc.